



PROFILE OF A HIT SONGWRITER

MODERATED BY: LACIE CARPENTER

WIL NANCE

- Nance hit the top of R&R and Billboard with his #1 BRAD PAISLEY smash, “She’s Everything,” a song on *Time Well Wasted*, the multi-platinum 2007 CMA Album of the Year.
- In 1999, Wil received a BMI award for “Round About Way,” a #1 hit single for GEORGE STRAIT, a song on the multi-platinum CMA Album Of The Year *Carrying Your Love With Me*. “Round About Way” is also on GEORGE STRAIT’S *Latest Greatest Straitest Hits* and GEORGE STRAIT’S *50 Number Ones*.
- He also landed on *Troubadour*, GEORGE STRAIT’S platinum-selling, Grammy-winning, 2008 CMA Album Of The Year with a song called “If Heartaches Were Horses” (Nance/ Brock/ Dillon). In 2009, GEORGE STRAIT cut another Wil Nance song, “Where Have I Been All My Life”(Nance/ Williams/ Austin), which is on GEORGE STRAIT'S *Twang*.
- Other singles include: BLUE COUNTY “I Get To” (also nominated for Dove Award – Easters version), JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY “You Are,” GENE WATSON “Next To Nothin,” CHAD BROCK “You Are” and more.

JENNY SLATE LEE

- By 17, Jenny already signed her first publishing deal, and by 18, she was traveling the world singing and performing.
- With appearances on CBS Morning Show, GAC, CMT and TNN, Jenny was one of the rare vocalists to receive a perfect score on the TV show, “Star Search.”
- She has performed with the Nashville Opera, The Tennessee Repertory Theatre, The Crook and Chase Theatre, and HPAC.
- Her song “Beautifully Broken,” which she co-wrote with Plumb, has become the title of a new, major motion picture film. It was a chart-topping song for Plumb. Grammy-winning artist John Berry is also climbing the charts with his version, and the legendary CeCe Winans has released a version.

JERRY VANDIVER

- Jerry has seen his songs recorded by such artists as Tim McGraw, Phil Vassar, Lonestar, Barbara Mandrell, Lee Greenwood and The Oak Ridge Boys, to name a few.
- He scored a Top 5 single on Gene Watson's "Don't Waste It On The Blues," a Top 20 on Wild Rose's *Go Down Swingin'* and #2 on Tim McGraw's *For a Little While*. Thanks to these artists, Jerry has songs on more than 15 million records, two of which are hanging on the walls of the Country Music Hall of Fame.
- Jerry co-authored the songwriting workbook, *Your First Cut: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting There*.

EDY NATHAN

- Edy Nathan, MA, LCSWR, is an author (*It's Grief: The Dance of Self-Discovery Though Trauma and Loss*) public speaker and licensed therapist. In her expertise as a grief therapist, she interweaves her formal training as a psychotherapist with breathwork, guided imagery, ritual and storytelling. She believes that everyone experiences grief throughout their lives. Grief is not just about the death of a loved one, but the losses we experience in life.
- Edy earned degrees from New York University and Fordham University, with post-graduate training at the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy. She practices in New York City.



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"You must gamble a lot of time and resources to a dream that may or may not become a reality." — Michael Garvin

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- Wil—What would you say to someone who has been working at this craft for many years but hasn't quite broken into the realm of hit songwriting?

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- Jerry—Do you believe they aren't raising the bar with their songwriting and instead writing mediocre work? Or is it bad luck? Both?

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- Jenny—With the possibility of never making it in a business that changes daily, why should we continue writing and fighting for our dreams to become a reality?

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- Edy—You stated, "Being successful in our own minds doesn't mean we are tapping into something deep within others." How can thinking we are better than we are be detrimental to a songwriter's success?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information--

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